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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

December 28, 1951

MEMORANDUM

TO: *C*]
FROM: John Devine
SUBJECT: The Committee for a Free Asia

DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. *X*
CLASS. CHANGED TO: *TS & C*
REVIEWED DATE: *2010*
AUTH: *NSA*
DATE: *18 JUN 1980* REVIEW: *C*]-

The memorandum entitled The Committee for a Free Asia, dated December 21, 1951, has been reviewed by responsible officers of the Department of State in response to your request and the general reaction is favorable. With the minor exceptions stated below, the Department feels that the subject document is an acceptable basis on which the Committee for a Free Asia can operate and at the same time avoid undesirable overlap or conflict with the foreign information programs of the Department of State.

It is suggested that the subject document would be improved by the inclusion, probably under the section on General Policies, of the names of the Asian countries in which operations will be conducted and to which material will be directed. Similarly, it is suggested that the target groups within these countries be more precisely identified. It is recognized that it is difficult at this stage to be exact in these matters but it is our opinion that the paper would gain in usefulness if it contained even provisional country and target audience statements.

The use of the word "described" in paragraph 2 of the same section is not clear to us.

Under Radio Free Asia, Paragraph 4, item b., the activity as described seems to be one that could be normally carried out by VOA.

Since the successful implementation of your paper will depend to a great extent on close cooperation between your agency and the Department of State, it is suggested that a working level meeting be held at least once a month at which operations and plans of the Committee for Free Asia can be discussed by representatives of your agency and the Department of State.

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102 120 2
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DATE 28 Dec 51

SECRET - "Security Information"

SECURITY INFORMATION

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State*

December 21, 1951

SUBJECT: Committee for a Free Asia

It is agreed by both the Department of State and CIA that there is a real job to be done in Asia by CFA - a job which State cannot do through USIS or its other associated programs.

Until more experience is gained by CFA - particularly through its field organizations - it will not be possible to specifically define all activities which it should undertake. It is however, considered important that CFA operations get underway without further delay, providing, of course, that they do not conflict with national policies, nor compete with USIS or other State activities.

The revised operating program of CFA, dated December 4, 1951 (which has been approved in principle by the P area of State), is therefore approved, providing that it is implemented in accordance with the policies and instructions set forth in the attached memorandum, and provided that close coordination is maintained in the field and in Washington.

This includes authorization to proceed with the ~~development of plans for future operations~~ of Radio Free Asia - in accordance with the policies set forth in the attached, ~~with the understanding that such plans will be coordinated as necessary prior to their implementation.~~

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DATE 21 Dec 51

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21 December 1951

The Committee for a Free AsiaGeneral Policies

1. Although initially it will not be possible, CFA should work toward removing the U. S. label - private and public - from its operations and take on an Asian coloration.

2. CFA activities including RFA should be ~~decentralized~~ ^{decentralized} as far as possible and transferred from San Francisco to Asian countries.

3. CFA should operate as far as possible through local groups - not necessarily sub-committees of CFA.

4. CFA should as a general principle not undertake activities of the kind presently carried on or planned by USIS or other official overt U. S. agencies. The type of activities within the cognizance of USIS are set forth in Appendix A. However, there may be some occasions in which CFA can either take a more strident line or slant material of the type normally produced by USIS in a way which would not be appropriate to USIS. However, the USIS line has toughened and this area in which CFA can operate and in which USIS cannot has narrowed. There may also be certain activities of the type set forth in Appendix I, which CFA may be able to undertake in certain areas more appropriately than USIS or in addition to USIS. Through close coordination in the field and in Washington, these may be spelled out and non-duplication insured.

Priorities

1. Priorities set forth in the Operating Program should be modified so that first priority is given to the Overseas Chinese with a view to:

a. Developing leaders who are friendly to the United States who will be able to communicate with and ultimately influence other Chinese overseas and on the China mainland in the fight against communism.

b. Denying leaders, professional, and other key personnel to the Communists.

c. Assisting where possible in the rescue and relocation of key Chinese who are presently homeless and starving.

d. Developing personnel who might be trained for intelligence, stay-behind or other missions.

2. This
practical -
consider
Crisis
Centralized
control
secretariat

as
private
acknowledges
this
material

* better use
close coordination
no duplication
with USIS
design
change
wherever
needed

Encl /

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

-2-

2. Additional emphasis should be placed on building the apparatus for field operations.

will be very overbearing and is not

Radio Free Asia

RFA should be guided by the general policies set forth above. More specifically:

gradually eliminate

superior at this moment

1. RFA should ~~phase out~~ broadcasts which bear the U. S. label from San Francisco. RFA should be a voice of Asia,

2. RFA should generally avoid the kind of program which VOA broadcasts and for which the U. S. Government can accept responsibility (in this regard there are few restrictions to be placed on VOA as respects the toughness of its anti-Communist line).

but RFA must carry its own program to extent required to make appeal

CFA to direct in building machinery

3. Operations should be transferred to Asia and decentralized as far as possible so that broadcasts can be made under the sponsorship of local groups through local stations, as near as possible to the target audience. Broadcasts should be made via medium wave where possible. The Committee, however, will ^{not} be precluded from operating ~~its own~~ stations in certain areas where existing stations are largely Government controlled, and have their own editorial policy which would be likely to prohibit the successful execution of the Committee's mission.

4. Examples of the kinds of activities which can be undertaken by RFA are:

a. Broadcasts designed to influence political elections, under specific instructions and controls.

b. Broadcasts aimed at assisting specific local labor, youth, teachers, women or other groups, whose goals are consistent with long range U. S. interests.

c. Influencing the development of leadership by giving hearing to selected leaders and withholding it from others.

d. Openly encouraging the subversion of the Chinese Communist Government.

e. Take stands against specific persons and specific groups: the corruption of an undemocratic politician; the leaders of communist dominated unions

f. Present as truth the probable or possible when its falsity cannot be disproved by the enemy.

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

-3-

- g. Encourage debates and discussions, loaded as required.
- h. Expose communist informers in non-communist controlled areas more freely than can VOA.
- i. Enlist the aid of Asian intellectuals who might be fearful of the association ~~with~~ an official Government program.

5. It is recognized that news such as that provided by PANA and features such as those already broadcast directly by RFA remain important aspects of a gray psychological warfare program as well as audience-gaining assets. RFA will follow the general principle, however, of furnishing such news and features to local groups for their use rather than for direct production under the RFA label.

It is considered that the development of a strictly Asian commercial newsgathering organization, specializing in local news and not seemingly subsidized by a U. S. instrumentality, is advantageous to the U. S. Government as a whole as well as to the over-all objectives and activities of the Committee.

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

APPENDIX I

* Listed below are examples of activities undertaken by the Department of State and/or ECA. Normally the association of such activities with the U. S. Government is either acknowledged or if not, the association if it became known would not embarrass the U. S. government or discredit the activity.

a. The Voice of America broadcasts.

b. Contracts for purchase of published materials for overt distribution abroad, including subscriptions to magazines, purchase of additional copies of books, pamphlets or other printed material prepared by foreign organizations, publishing houses, trade unions, et cetera.

c. Contracts for dissemination of information materials such as posters, pamphlets, or leaflets, motion picture films, still photos, exhibits, et cetera.

d. Contracts with publishers, motion picture producers, and other producers of information media for production of materials for foreign distribution.

e. Direct production and dissemination of material which may be attributed to the United States Government without serious embarrassment or produced and/or disseminated without attribution to any source.

* Extracted from USIS publication dated November 1, 1951,
Subject: USIS and Indigenous Operations.

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